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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/798,123

03/11/2004

Georgianna Reid

34916CIP

8800

7590

12/13/2004

Hovey Williams LLP
Suite 400
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Kansas City, MO 64108

EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/798,123	Applicant(s) REID, GEORGIANNA	
	Examiner Brigitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/11/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/11/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on September 21, 2004. Applicant's election of claims 17-23 without traverse is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epps 6,328,597 in view of Wu 6,390,645. Epps discloses a combination comprising an electrical connector 10 including an electrical conductor having first and second ends, a first male electrical plug 16a at said first end and a second male electrical plug 16b at said second end, said first male electrical plug operatively inserted into a female connector end 24, said second male electrical plug of said electrical connector adapted for connection to a female electrical connector to deliver electrical power to said female connector end. Epps does not disclose the female connector end 24a being a light string including an elongated electrical cord presenting a male connector end and an opposed female connector end, and a plurality of lights along the length of and operatively connected with said electrical cord. However, Wu discloses a combination comprising: a light string for a Christmas tree including an elongated

electrical cord 1 presenting a male connector end 4 and an opposed female connector end 5, and a plurality of lights 3 along the length of and operatively connected with said electrical cord. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the combination of Epps by providing the female connector end with a light string (or any other device with a female end) as taught by Wu to provide electrical power for the female end.

Regarding the **method steps** incorporated in claim 20, the step of connecting the strings does not differentiate from the finished product and would have been an obvious choice to one of ordinary skill.

Claims 18,19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu and Epps as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Applicant's admitted Prior Art (AAPA) as disclosed on page 2, lines 14-20 of the instant application. Neither Wu nor Epps disclose a conventional electrical extension cord. However, conventional electrical extension cord are well known in the art as disclosed by AAPA. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the combination of Epps and Wu by providing a conventional electrical extension cord to extend the plug combination.

Regarding claim 19, AAPA discloses that Christmas lights are typically have no third grounding lead. Therefore the first and second plugs would not require a third lead. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the combination of Wu Epps by providing the first and second male electrical plugs

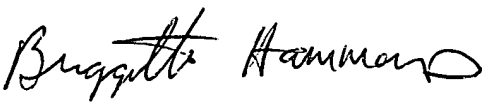
with no third grounding lead. Since most older conventional electrical extension cords do not have a third grounding lead .

Regarding the **method steps** incorporated in claims 21-23, the steps of connecting the strings does not differentiate from the finished product and would have been an obvious choice to one of ordinary skill.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Brigitte R. Hammond
Examiner
Art Unit 2833